

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



LITTER AND RECYCLING GRANT PROGRAM ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTING SUMMARY REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2017



Litter pickup and recycling events from various localities in Virginia

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

This report summarizes the litter prevention and recycling program expenses and activities conducted in fiscal year (FY) 2017 by the local government recipients of the annual litter and recycling grants.

The Commonwealth of Virginia collects three “litter” taxes to support litter prevention and recycling program activities in Virginia. The three taxes are comprised of a beer and wine coolers tax, a soft drink tax, and a retail establishment fixed fee of \$10 or \$25. Collectively referred to as the “litter taxes,” the revenues collected are deposited into the Litter Control and Recycling Fund (fund). Since 1981, over \$54 million has been paid into the fund to support litter control and recycling programs. The annual uses of these funds as specified by legislation are:

- 95 percent - No-match grants to localities (local government grants)
- 5 percent - Grant administrative costs - Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

The guidelines for these grants are overseen by the Litter Control and Recycling Fund Advisory Board (board) and DEQ provides program and financial administration of the annual grants. The board meets annually (up to two meetings) to track the status of the fund and the progress of the annual grant program. The board is appointed by the Governor and consists of five members as follows:

- Three members shall represent persons paying the taxes that are deposited into the fund and shall include one member appointed from nominations submitted by recognized industry associations representing retailers; one member appointed from nominations submitted by recognized industry associations representing soft drink distributors; and one member appointed from nominations submitted by recognized industry associations representing beer distributors.
- One member shall be a local litter or recycling coordinator.
- One member shall be from the general public.

At the conclusion of each grant year, the local government grant recipients must submit performance and accounting reports to DEQ on the activities and expenses for which the grant funds were used. The data contained in this report was compiled from the information submitted by the grant recipients and certified by one of their authorized agents.

FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

Funding for Fiscal Year 2017

In FY 2017, \$1,812,330 was disbursed from the litter fund to 309 of 324 localities. Litter grants are calculated by population and road miles and do not take into consideration how much money the local government receives from other sources in support of its programs. The number of local governments applying for the grants varies from year-to-year.

Many localities use other sources of funds to augment their grant award. Programs reported over \$15.2 million in cash from local funds, private sources, and other revenues.

In addition to cash, a number of localities rely upon in-kind services to carry out their program activities. Local programs value their in-kind donations at \$5,475,485.

In FY 2017, local governments matched the \$1,812,330 awarded in grant funds with \$22,090,908 from other sources of money and in-kind services. This represented a funding match of 1,219%.

The local litter prevention and recycling programs may be managed or operated by a single locality (city, county, or town), or by a group of localities (referred to as a "cooperative program").

Single local governments: 155

Co-ops: 50

Total grants disbursed: 190

Total localities served: 309

PERFORMANCE DETAILS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

Performance Details for Fiscal Year 2017

STAFFING AND VOLUNTEER SUPPORT LEVEL

Most programs have at least one full-time or part-time employee who is typically assisted by volunteers. Volunteers play a critical role in each program's success. At a standard rate of \$24.49 per hour, the value of the service provided by volunteers during FY 2017 was **\$5,648,506**.

CLEANUPS

Each year, local programs sponsor a variety of cleanup programs where volunteers donate their time to clean up areas where litter is present or where illegal dumping of solid waste has occurred. A total of **5,902** cleanup events, utilizing a total of **42,684** volunteers, cleaned **94,550** cubic yards of litter in FY 2017.



Anti-Litter Council Cleanup Event at Ressie Jeffries Elementary School in Warren County on
March 2, 2017

PERFORMANCE DETAILS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

YOUTH EDUCATION

The majority of local programs included a youth education component. These activities included presentations and workshops in schools, involvement in "ecology clubs" and other educational events such as Earth Day celebrations. Last year, the local government grant recipients reported that **1,963** presentations, workshops, or other educational events for young people were conducted. The total number of youth attending these activities was reported as **69,184**. The total number of ecology clubs reported for FY 2016 is **95** with **1,692** members.



Spring 2017 Litter Cleanup in Powhatan County

PERFORMANCE DETAILS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

PUBLIC EDUCATION (NOT REPORTED AS YOUTH EDUCATION)

Community outreach is a major component of many of the local litter and recycling programs. Community outreach activities may include booths, presentations, and unstaffed displays, such as bulletin boards and posters. Litter and recycling program managers reported that they conducted **577** workshops with an estimated **39,201** people in attendance. There were **423** staffed displays or events that were viewed by approximately **581,238** people. Program managers reported that in FY 2017 there were **458** unstaffed displays in Virginia.



Pulaski County's Booth Promoting Recycling
at the Pulaski County Fair in July 2017



April 2017 Earth Day Event in Bowling Green

ASSIGN-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM

The Assign-A-Highway program continues as a litter prevention/cleanup initiative in the Commonwealth. Under this program, area judges offer probationers the opportunity to work with the locality's litter program to clean up assigned sections of roads and highways during their probationary period. For FY 2017, grantees reported **49,986** cubic yards of litter were collected by **7,242** probationers along **22,201** miles of roads.

PROGRAM GRANT FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

Local governments that received grants for FY 2017 were asked to estimate the percentage of their grant funds used specifically for the litter prevention program activities and the percentage of their grant funds used specifically for recycling program activities. Approximately **55 percent** was reported as being used for litter prevention while **45 percent** was reported as having been spent to support recycling.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

ESTIMATED PERCENT GRANT FUNDING TO SUPPORT LITTER PREVENTION AND RECYCLING

DESCRIPTION	PERCENTAGE
Grant funds used for litter prevention program activities	55%
Grant funds used for recycling program activities	45%

Note: The percentage of funding utilized for litter and recycling is subjectively based upon estimates provided by the grant recipients. These percentages also are based only on the grant funds awarded to localities by DEQ. This percentage of funding does not take into account any other monies that the local governments may have received from other sources or had budgeted for these programs from their general operation funds.

DATA TABLES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

Data Tables for Fiscal Year 2017

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTED DATA COMPARING FY 2017 TO FY 2016

DESCRIPTION	FY2017	FY2016
Funds Distributed from Litter Tax	\$1,812,330	\$1,920,247
Total Localities Funded	309	307
Locality Cash Match Total	\$13,763,990	\$12,466,376
Locality In-Kind Match Totals	\$671,767	\$716,407
Number of Volunteer Hours Worked	230,645	322,861
Cleanup Events	5,902	5,941
Volunteers	42,684	47,244
Cubic Yards of Litter Collected	84,550	89,575
Youth Presentations, Workshops, or other Educational Events	1,963	1,643
Youth Attending	69,184	68,690
Ecology Clubs	95	97
Ecology Club Members	1,692	2,320
Number of Probationers	7,242	7,198
Number of Road Miles Cleaned	22,201	15,999
Cubic Yards of Litter Collected	49,986	24,446

CASH MATCH FUND BREAKDOWN

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Local Cash	\$ 13,763,990
Private Sector Cash	\$ 368,445
Other Cash	\$ 336,249
Total	\$ 14,468,684

IN-KIND (ALL OTHER FUND SOURCES) MATCH FUND BREAKDOWN

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Local In-Kind	\$ 671,767
Private In-Kind	\$ 52,447
Other In-Kind	\$ 1,671
Total	\$ 725,885

DATA TABLES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

EXPENSES

Litter Prevention and Recycling programs used their grant funds for expenses in the following categories:

FY 2017 EXPENSES

USE OF GRANT FUNDS	FY2017 EXPENSES	USAGE PERCENT
Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits	\$ 842,656	46%
Essential Supplies	\$ 514,782	28%
Contractual Services	\$ 323,221	18%
Travel	\$ 15,868	1%
Other	\$ 123,417	7%
Total Grant Funds	\$ 1,819,944	100%

STAFFING

FY 2017 EMPLOYED STAFF

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER
Number of Full-Time and Part-Time Employees	962
Number of Hours Worked	697,653

DATA TABLES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

PROGRAM PROMOTION

The fund guidelines require reporting on the kinds of materials the litter program managers distribute; however, the quantity does not need to be reported. In addition, litter program managers cannot use their grant funds for advertising though advertising may be donated and is included in this report as an in-kind match.

FY 2017 MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

TYPES OF MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED	NUMBER OF LOCALITIES
Litter Bags	81
Pencils	77
Stickers	63
Coloring Books	62
Other*	91
<i>*Other materials distributed include bookmarks, buttons, certificates, cups, gloves, hand sanitizer, key chains, litter grabbers, magnets, memo pads, pocket ash trays, recycling bins, rulers, tote bags, water bottles, wrist bands, etc.</i>	

FY 2017 COMMUNICATION TYPES

TYPES OF COMMUNICATION	NUMBER OF LOCALITIES
Brochures	73
Websites	93
Emails	66
Newspapers	60
Newsletters	48
Public Service Radio Announcements	21
Facebook	80
Public Service Television Announcements	21
Twitter	22
Other*	45
<i>*Other materials distributed include banners, blogs, bumper stickers, booklets, calendars, fliers, post card mailers, presentations at public town meetings and other interest groups, school and government marquees, signage, and YouTube.</i>	

WEBSITE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Website and Contact Information

WEBSITE

To obtain additional information about the Litter Prevention and Recycling Grant Program, visit:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/LandProtectionRevitalization/RecyclingandLitterPreventionPrograms/LitterPreventionandRecyclingGrantPrograms.aspx>.

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